

Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 /073 W

----- 047384

R 061524Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1590

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, RH, ZA

SUBJECT: MURDERED ZANU FREEDOM FIGHTERS EXHUMED

1. IN PAST WEEK ZAMBIAN POLICE HAVE DISCOVERED BODIES OF 15 FORMER ZANU MEMBERS APPARENTLY MURDERED DURING FEB 1975. FIRST BODY, IDENTIFIED AS THAT OF RESEARCH SCIENTIST AND FORMER ZANU BRANCH CHAIRMAN EDGAR MADEKUROZWA WHO DISAPPEARED ABOUT FEB 6, WAS FOUND IN SHALLOW GRAVE NEAR LUSAKA ON APRIL 29. ON MAY 6, HOME MINISTRY ANNOUNCED THAT BODIES OF 14 UNIFORMED MEN, BOUND, TORTURED, AND STRANGLER, HAD BEEN UNEARTHED FROM SHALLOW GRAVES IN EASTERN PROVINCE. DESPITE APPEAL BY GOVT FOR RELATIVES TO COME FORWARD AND IDENTIFY BADLY DECOMPOSED BODIES, ONLY THAT OF FORMER ZANU POLITICAL COMMISSAR JOHN MATAURE HAS BEEN POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED. MATAURE, A MANYIKA,

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DISAPPEARED FEB 9 ALONG WITH SEVERAL OTHER ZANU MEMBERS

FOLLOWING THEIR PARTICIPATION IN DEPARTURE CEREMONIES FOR ANC LEADERS AT LUSAKA AIRPORT.

2. EDITORIALS IN BOTH ZAMBIAN PAPERS MAY 6 STRONGLY CONDEMNED MURDERS AND EXPRESS CONFIDENCE ZAMBIAN AUTHORITIES WILL PURSUE THOSE RESPONSIBLE AND BRING THEM TO JUSTICE. GOVERNMENT-OWNED DAILY MAIL BLASTS THOSE ZANU MEMBERS "SITTING IN AIRCONDITIONED COMFORT IN LONDON" WHO HAVE CRITICIZED ZAMBIAN INVESTIGATION INTO DEATHS OF HERBERT CHITEPO AND OTHER MURDERED ZANU MEMBERS. MAIL ADDS THAT POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND DISCIPLINE ARE SADLY LACKING AMONG RHODESIAN NATIONALISTS. IT URGES THAT PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE MAKE FINAL DECISION AS TO WHO WILL LEAD THEM SO THAT ANC LEADERSHIP WILL BE ABLE SPEAK WITH AUTHORITY AND INSTILL DISCIPLINE IN THE RANKS.

3. BEGIN LOU. COMMENT: CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH BODIES WERE DISCOVERED HAVE NOT BEEN ANNOUNCED BUT WE ASSUME EXHUMATIONS CAME ABOUT FOLLOWING INTERROGATIONS OF SOME 80 EX-ZANU POLITICAL AND MILITARY OFFICIALS NOW UNDER ZAMBIAN DETENTION. ZAMBIAN DECISION TO GIVE WIDESPREAD PUBLICITY TO MURDERS CALCULATED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL JUSTIFICATION FOR GRZ DETENTION ACTION EARLIER CRITICIZED BY SOME ZANU MEMBERS AND THEIR AFRICAN AND OTHER SUPPORTERS ABROAD AS EMASCULATING NATIONALISTS' ONLY SERIOUS MILITARY FORCE. HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER MILNER HAS CONFIRMED TO US GRZ PLANS BRING NUMBER OF FORMER ZANU MEMBERS TO PUBLIC TRIAL WITHIN NEXT TWO MONTHS ON CHARGES OF KIDNAPPING AND MURDER OCCURRING ON ZAMBIAN SOIL.
NELSON

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